

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 89

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: THOMAS A. STAUFFER

PRESENT POSITION

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 11/19/49

PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE  
KENT STATE UNIV.

BUTLER, PENNA.

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: FURNITURE

/ CRAFTS

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

PRIVATE PRACTICE IN ARCHITECTURE  
IN KENT.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

MAY SHOW '87

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

NUMEROUS AIA (AM. INST OF ARCHITECTS) DESIGN AWARDS  
& SEVERAL TEACHING AWARDS

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

† DESIGN AND BUILD FURNITURE WHICH PROVIDES AN 'IMMEDIATE' OR MORE EXPEDIENT RESULT TO DESIGN INQUIRY (THAN ARCHITECTURE). THE FURNITURE IS AN EXPLORATION OF FORMALISTIC, MATERIALISTIC, & CRAFT INTERRELATIONSHIPS - ALL OF WHICH INFORM MY ARCHITECTURE.

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 87

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

**FULL NAME:** Thomas Alan Stauffer

**PRESENT POSITION** Associate Professor,  
School of Architecture and Environ-  
mental Design  
Kent State University

**DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:** 11/19/49

Butler, Pennsylvania

**CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA:** Craft: Granite,  
Concrete, Steel, Wood

Kent, Ohio 44240

**ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):**

Kent State University, 1974, Cum Laude, Bachelor of Architecture  
University of Pennsylvania, 1976, Masters of Architecture-Masters of  
City Planning

**EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):**

Cooper Hewitt, New York, "Suburbs" Exhibition 1981, Robert A.M. Stern,  
AIA, Curator

International Design Center of New York (IDCNY), New York, "Chair  
Fair" Exhibition, January 1987

**COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:**

**AWARDS:**

Akron Chapter, American Institute of Architects, Design Award, 1984

Cleveland Chapter, American Institute of Architects, Design Award, 1985

Architects Society of Ohio, Distinguished Teaching Award, 1985

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Please see attached.

Thomas A. Stauffer  
"Homage"

My work as an artist is an extension of my concerns of architecture translated into object design. The chair provides an opportunity to compose sculptural form with specific functional and structural requirements.

The basis for this composition, as in architecture, is a collection of elements; points, lines, planes and mass transformed into columns, beams, walls, floors, and stacks. The structural investigation of "Homage" represents the engineering possibilities of architecture; tension, post and beam, truss, bearing wall, and cantilever.

The piece presented for the 1987 May Show is the second chair that I have completed. "Homage" contains memories of the arts and crafts, constructivist, and DeStijl movements in art, together with images of mid-west industrialism.

The materials of "Homage" connect to enduring materials of architecture; wood, stone and concrete combined with materials of the machine industries. This past and present is reinforced through contrasting natural textures and machined finished and textures. The indeterminate future is referred to in the incomplete nature of the composition.

Color is integral and applied to primary and secondary elements respectively. The painted color of secondary elements is used to enhance details as ornament.

Thomas A. Stauffer  
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Ready mix concrete, common pipe, welded rod, and screen door tie are combined with a specially selected cut and polished granite. The major vertical plane, the major horizontal mass, and the major vertical support are all natural in finish and color.

"Homage" also explores the dynamics and tensions of asymmetry. Form evolved from the combination of regular rectilinear and curvilinear geometry combined with a free irregular shape of the primary horizontal mass.